

DMH OFFICE OF PREVENTION

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MISSION

The mission of the DMH Office of Prevention (DMHOP) is to enhance the health and well being of Missouri's children, young and older adults, and families through comprehensive approaches to reduce the incidence and prevalence of mental retardation and alcohol, drug, psychiatric, and developmental disorders and disabilities.

Framework

The DMHOP will employ a risk and protective factors framework to identify disorders and disabilities and preventive interventions.

HOW ACCOMPLISHED?

- DMH will work to accomplish its mission through the following means:
 - Developing policies directed at changing community norms, attitudes, and laws favorable to disorder development;
 - Developing and deploying scientifically sound, evidence-based preventive interventions to prevent onset of disorders and disabilities;

HOW ACCOMPLISHED?

(continued)

- Developing and implementing continuous quality improvement strategies, including process and outcome evaluations, in order to assure that interventions are timely, relevant, and effective; and
- Developing and implementing staff development and training programs in order to assure that interventions are timely, relevant, and effective and that agency and contractor staffs skills and knowledge are current and consistent with best practices.

Disorders to be Addressed

Examples of disorders that can be addressed include:

Examples

- Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
- Fetal Alcohol Effects and Syndrome
- Early onset of alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use
- Underage drinking
- Binge drinking
- Adolescent and elderly suicide
- Autism

Target Populations and Associated Disorders

An initial task of the DMHOP will be the identification of populations to receive preventive interventions. Examples of target populations include:

- Women of childbearing age
- Youth 15 – 25 years of age
- Youth 5 – 18 years of age (school-aged youth)
- Adults 60 years and older

Preventive Intervention Strategies

- Universal
 - All target populations
- Selected
 - Populations at increased risk for developing a specific disorder or disability
- Indicated
 - Populations in early stages of disorder or disability development

Action Steps

- Met and made presentation to each Division's Executive Team and Regional Administrators
- Prevention representatives from each Division have been identified for a planning group
- Planning group to identify needs and gaps, target populations and risk factors, resources, and prevention strategies

Next Steps

1. Identify prevention services gaps
2. Coordinate current departmental prevention activities.
3. Assess current departmental capabilities for enhanced prevention program planning and implementation
4. Develop departmental plan

Next Steps (continued)

5. Develop initiatives in collaboration with the Departments of Health and Senior Services (DHSS), Social Services (DSS), and Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE); and other departments as necessary.